(b) what action is being taken at Government level to ensure that adequate/effective machinery is brought into being to manage the solid waste and ward off serious threat to health and habitation in urban settlements?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) Sanitation including solid waste management is a State subject and in turn it is one of the primary functions of the urban local bodies. In metropolitan cities though there is a scope for further improvement, but there are no reports from State Governments concerned about inadequate arrangements for disposal of solid waste having given rise to serious health and environmental hazards.

With a view to strengthen the municipalities, the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 was passed. Solid Waste Management is included as one of the items under the 12th Schedule of the Constitution. There is a mandatory provision to constitute State Finance Commissions which will suggest ways and means for improving the financial resources of municipalities. It is expected that with the greater devolution of funds and powers to municipalities by State Governments, as per the constitutional provisions, municipalities will get adequately strengthened to discharge various duties including solid waste collection and its disposal. The Central Govt. also assists the various State Governments and municipalities by providing training facilities to their personnel handling solid waste management, supporting R & D efforts, pilot projects and organising seminars and workshops.

**Demand and supply of fertilisers**

*379. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a gap between the demand and supply of several varieties of fertilisers resulting in import of fertilizers every year;

(b) if so, the details of the gap since 1988-89 year-wise, along with details of fertilizers imported during the period upto the month of February, 1995;

(c) whether it is a fact that import of fertilizers is also required in substantial quantity in the next financial year; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that several units of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation as well as those of Rashtriya Fertilizer Corporation which have been lying closed or yielding uneconomic output, could be augmented by modernising its plants involving some investment;

(e) the details of investments required alongwith the time frame and the details of the increase in yields expected therefrom; and

(f) the actions proposed, if any, to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (e) The indigenous production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers does not fully cover the demand for these nutrients. The gap between demand and indigenous availability is bridged by imports. The requirement of potassic fertilizers is met entirely by imports as there are no known commercially viable reserves of Potash in the country. Details of year-wise imports of Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P) and Potash (K) nutrients from 1988-89 to 1994-95 (till February '95) are enclosed as a statement. (*See* below).

Urea is the most important of the nitrogenous fertilizers which are imported. Since it is under price, distribution and movement controls, imports of urea are made on Government account. Their quantum is the function of the indigenous availability and demand which in turn depends on meteorological conditions, changes in cropping pattern support prices for agricultural crops and other economic factors. The quantum of

imports of other fertilizers is determined by market forces.

(d) to (f) With the exception of an obsolete small urea plant (300 tonnes per day) at Trombay I, the plants of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Limited (RCF) are operating satisfactory. The Trombay I unit has outlived its utility and its modernisation will not be cost effective.

The units of Hindustan Fertilizers Ltd. (HFC) have been operating far below their installed capacity due to technological deficiencies, inadequacies in system design, ageing of plants, power shortages, lack of funds and frequent equipment breakdowns. At present, all the units of HFC, except Namrup I, are in production. The commissioning activities of Haldia project of HFC were suspended in October, 1986 as the plant could not be commissioned due to repeated equipment breakdowns.

HFC was declared a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in terms of the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) was appointed as the operating agency to independently evaluate all alternatives available for rehabilitation of the units of HFC. In its report to BIFR, ICICI has proposed a range of options with different levels of investment and financial sacrifice for various units. As per the report of ICICI, the choice and acceptability of a particular option would eventually be based on consideration of multiple criteria including financial viability, macro-economic desirability and level of additional investments. The revamp of the operating units of HFC, namely Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup through a modest investment appears to be a viable option in terms of optimisation of available resources. However, any decision with regard to the revival modernisation of HFC units would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

**Statement**

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

| Year | Imports | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | P | K | Total (N+P+K) |
| 19988-89 | 2.19 | 4.07 | 9.82 | 16.08 |
| 1989-90 | 5.23 | 13.11 | 12.80 | 31.14 |
| 1990-91 | 4.14 | 10.16 | 13.28 | 27.58 |
| 1991-92 | 5.66 | 9.67 | 12.36 | 27.69 |
| 992-93* | 11.56 | 7 38 | 10.82 | 29.76 |
| 1993-94* | 15.88 | 7.22 | 8.57 | 31.67 |
| 1994-95* (Till 28-2-95) | 13.86 | 3,80 | 10.34 | 28.00 |

*Quantities of nutrients supplied by the imports of Dia-Ammonium Phosphate and Muriate of Potash effected after decontrol and decanalisation are only approximations.